



**NORTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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OFFICE OF  
STATE HEALTH OFFICER  
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September 11, 2006

Dear Immunization Stakeholders:

Please accept this letter as a formal invitation to participate in an upcoming North Dakota Immunization Stakeholders' Forum. The purpose of the forum is to develop guidelines and strategies for the North Dakota Immunization Program in the face of declining federal funding and increased vaccination recommendations. Your participation in this process is vital.

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is at a strategic point for planning and decision making regarding immunizations. In the past, the NDDoH supplied all recommended vaccinations to providers throughout the state to immunize all North Dakota children. The immunization program is currently facing both reduced funding and increases in the recommended number of vaccinations and their associated costs. Because of this, decisions need to be made regarding the future of the NDDoH Immunization Program. In addition, immunization rates in North Dakota are remaining stable, instead of increasing. It is important that immunization stakeholders throughout the state address these important issues.

The forum will consist of six meetings held throughout North Dakota facilitated by the NDDoH and North Dakota local public health units. Anticipated outcomes for the forum are:

- Determine whether or not and how the NDDoH will continue to supply vaccines to all children in North Dakota.
- Identify possible strategies to increase immunization rates.
- Identify four people from each region to participate in a North Dakota Immunization Strategic Planning meeting to be held in Bismarck on November 6, 2006.

You are invited to attend any of the six regional meetings. **Complete the enclosed registration form and return to Londa Rodahl by Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.** There is no charge for the event.

The forums will be held at the following locations and dates.

City	Date	Location
Fargo	October 16, 2006	Holiday Inn
Grand Forks	October 17, 2006	Alerus Center
Williston	October 19, 2006	Community Library
Bismarck	October 23, 2006	Public Works Building
Minot	October 24, 2006	First District Health Unit
Dickinson	October 26, 2006	Dickinson City Hall

A reception will begin at 5 p.m. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. local time and end at 8:30 p.m.

Every child in North Dakota is precious. This is your opportunity to provide input concerning how we can best continue to reach our children with lifesaving vaccinations. The success of these meetings and the future of the NDDoH Immunization Program will depend on your participation. We hope to see you there.

For more information, please contact the NDDoH Division of Disease Control at 701-328-2378 or toll-free at 800-472-2180.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry L. Dwelle". Below the signature, the text "by LRR" is written in a smaller, less legible cursive script.

Terry L. Dwelle, MD, MPHTM  
State Health Officer

TLD:lr

Enc.